or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R_1 is

a) C_{4-12} alkyl,

b) C_{4-12} alkenyl,

c) C_{4-12} alkynyl,

d) $-(CH_2)_h-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl,

e) $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl,

f) $-(CH_2)_h$-het,

R_2 is

a) C_{1-12} alkyl,

b) C_{2-12} alkenyl,

c) C_{2-12} alkynyl,

d) $-(CH_2)_h-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl,

e) $-(CH_2)_h-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkenyl,

f) $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl,

g) $-(CH_2)_h$-het,

h) $-(CH_2)_h$-Q,

i) $-(CH_2)_i$-Q or $-(CH_2)_i$-X-R_4, optionally the $-(CH_2)_i$- chain can be substituted with one or two C_{1-4} alkyl or phenyl, which in turn can be substituted with one to three halo or C_{1-4} alkyl, or

l) $-(CH_2)_hCHR_5R_6$;

R_3 is

a) H,

b) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl,

c) C_{1-4} alkyl, or

d) $-(CH_2)_h$-phenyl;

X is

a) -O-

b) $-S(=O)_j-$,

c) $-NR_7-$,

d) $-S(=O)_2NR_8-$, or

e) -C(=O)-;

R_4 is

a) H,

b) C_{1-8} alkyl,

c) $-(CH_2)_h$-phenyl, or

d) $-(CH_2)_h$-het;

R_5 is

a) C_{1-4} alkyl, or

b) $-C(=O)R_3$;

R_6 is

a) $-C(=O)R_3$, or

b) $-(CH_2)_hC(=O)R_3$;

R_7 is

a) H,

b) C_{1-4} alkyl,

c) $-(CH_2)_h$-phenyl,

d) $-C(=O)-R_3$,

e) $-S(=O)_2R_3$, or

f) $-C(=O)OR_3$;

R_8 is

a) C_{1-4} alkyl, or

b) $-(CH_2)_h$-phenyl;

Y is

a) -OH,

b) $-NR_9R_{10}$, or

c) fluoro;

R_9 and R_{10} are the same or different and are

a) H,

b) $-C(=O)-R_3$,

c) $-C(=O)-OR_3$, or

d) $-C(=O)-NHR_3$;

aryl is monocarbocyclic, or a bicarbocyclic aromatic moiety;

het is a 5- to 10-membered unsaturated monocyclic or a bicyclic heterocyclic moiety having one to three atoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

Q is a 5- to 10-membered saturated monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic moiety having one to two atom(s) selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

aryl, het, C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, $-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkenyl, Q and phenyl are optionally substituted;

h is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

i is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10;

j is 0, 1, or 2;

with the following provisos:

a) where R_2 is C_{1-6} alkyl, Y is other than $-NR_9R_{10}$,

b) where h is 0, het is attached to the α-position via the carbon atom of heterocyclic moiety, and

c) where h is 0, Q is attached to the α-position via the carbon atom of heterocyclic moiety;

wherein when Y is -OH and R_1 is phenyl substituted with fluorine, then R_2 is not C_{1-2} alkyl,

wherein when Y is NH_2 and R_1 is $-CH_2$-phenyl, then R_2 is not C_{1-2} alkyl, and

wherein when Y is -OH and R_1 is substituted phenyl, then R_2 is not C_{1-2} alkyl.--

--6. The compound of claim 4 that is:

2-Hydroxy-2-(1-butylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-butoxybenzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1,5,5-trimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-butoxybenzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(phenylthio)methyl-3-(4-butoxybenzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(benzylthio)methyl-3-(4-butoxybenzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(2-benzylthio-2-methylethyl)-3-(4-butoxybenzenesulfonyl)-propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1-butylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)-propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1, 5, 5-trimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(phenylthio)methyl-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(benzylthio)methyl-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(pyrid-2-yl)thiomethyl-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methylthiomethyl-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-[2-(1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)-2-methylethyl]-3-(4-chlorobiphenyl sulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(2-benzylthio-2-methylethyl)-3-(4-chlorobiphenylsulfonyl)-propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-phenoxybenzenesulfonyl) propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1-butylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-phenoxybenzenesulfonyl) propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1, 5, 5-trimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-(4-phenoxybenzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(phenylthio)methyl-3-(4-phenoxybenzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(benzylthio)'methyl-3-(4-phenoxybenzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-[2-(1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)-2-methylethyl]-3-(4-phenoxy benzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-[2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)thio-2-methylethyl]-(4-phenoxy benzenesulfonyl)propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(1,5,5-trimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-[4-(pyrid-4-yl)benzenesulfonyl]propionic acid;

2-Hydroxy-2-(phenylthio)methyl-3-[4-(pyrid-4-yl)benzenesulfonyl]propionic acid

or

2-Hydroxy-2-(1,5,5-trimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-3-[4-(pyrid-4-yl)oxy

benzenesulfonyl]propionic acid.--

Please add new Claims 20-36:

--20. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_1 is C_{4-12} alkyl.

21. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_1 is not C_{4-12} alkyl.

22. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_1 is $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl.

23. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_1 is not $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl.

24. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_1 is n-butyl, isobutyl, 1-methylpropyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, 3-methybutyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-ethylphenyl, 4-tertbutylphenyl, 4-isopropylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-ethoxyphenyl, 4-n-butoxyphenyl, benzyl, 4-phenylbenzyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-fluorobenzyl, 2-, 3-, 4-chlorobenzyl, 2-, 3-, 4-bromobenzyl, 4-ethoxybenzyl, 4-phenylphenyl (biphenyl), 4-chlorobiphenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 4-(pyrid-4-yl)phenyl, 4-(pyrid-4-yl)oxyphenyl, or 4-(benzamido)phenyl.

25. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_1 is n-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-ethylphenyl, 4-isopropylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-butoxyphenyl, benzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-bromobenzyl, 4-ethoxybenzyl, 4-phenylphenyl, 4-n-butylphenyl, biphenyl, 4-chlorobiphenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 4-(pyrid-4-yl)phenyl, and 4-(pyrid-4-yl)oxyphenyl.

26. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is C_{1-12} alkyl.

27. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is C_{4-12} alkyl.

28. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is not C_{1-12} alkyl.

29. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is C_{2-12} alkenyl.

30. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is C_{2-12} alkynyl.

31. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is $-(CH_2)_h-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_h-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkenyl, or $-(CH_2)_h$-aryl.

32. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is 1-cyano-l-phenyl methyl, 2-cyano ethyl, 2-phenylethyl, 2-bromo-2-phenylethyl, 2-bromoethyl, propyl, isopropyl, 3-chloropropyl, 3-bromopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, 3-methylbutyl, 1-methylpropyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, 3-methylbutyl, n-hexyl, n-heptyl, n-octyl, n-hexadecyl, n-octadecyl, 2-propenyl, 2-propynyl, 3-butenyl, 4-pentenyl, 3-butenynyl, 4-pentenynyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 2-cyclohexylethyl, 4-cyclohexylbutyl, dimethylaminomethyl, dimethylaminoethyl, dimethylaminopropyl, diethylaminopropyl, phenylaminomethyl, phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 4-ethoxyphenyl, benzyl, 4-methylbenzyl, 2-fluorobenzyl, 3-fluorobenzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 2-chlorobenzyl, 3-chlorobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 2-bromobenzyl, 3-bromobenzyl, 4-bromobenzyl, 2-methylbenzyl, 3-methylbenzyl, 4-methylbenzyl, 4-ethoxybenzyl, 4-nitrobenzyl, methylcarbonyl, 1-methylcarbonylmethyl, 2-phenylcarbonylethyl, isopropylcarbonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, 1,1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl, 2,2-ethoxycarbonylethyl, 1,2-ethoxycarbonylethyl, 2-methoxycarbonylpropyl, 3-methoxycarbonyl-propyl, 1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl, 1-ethoxycarbonylethyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonylmethyl, pyridylcarbonylmethyl, pyridylmethyl, pyridylethyl, quinolinylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, indolylmethyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, thienylmethyl, thienylethyl, piperidinylmethyl, piperazinylmethyl, 4-(methanesulfonyl)-piperazinylmethyl, morpholinomethyl, morpholinoethyl, morpholinopropyl, thiomorpholinomethyl, thiomorpholinopropyl, 3-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-aminopropyl, 3-hydroxy, 3-amino, or 3-phenoxy-propyl, 2-phenylethyloxy, (1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1-ethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1-

propylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1-isopropylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1-benzyl-hydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1,5,5-trimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1-butylhydantoin 3-yl)methyl, (1-butyl-5,5-dimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, 2-(1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-2-methylethyl, methylthiomethyl, ethylthiomethyl, butylthiomethyl, phenylthiomethyl, (2-methoxy)phenylthiomethyl, benzylthiomethyl, (pyrid-2-yl)thiomethyl, (pyrid-2-yl)methylthiomethyl, (2-methyl-5-oxo-6-hydroxy-2,5-dihydro-1,2,4-triazin-3-yl)thiomethyl, (2-aminothiazol-5-yl)thiomethyl, (1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)thiomethyl, (1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)methylthiomethyl, (1-benzyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)thiomethyl, (1-benzyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)methylthiomethyl, (1-methyltetrazol-5-yl)thiomethyl, (tetrazolo-[1,5b]pyridazin-6-yl)thiomethyl, (5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)thiomethyl, (5-methylisoxazol-3yl)methylthiomethyl, 2-benzylthio-2-methylethyl, 2-(pyrid-2-yl)methylthio-2-methyl-ethyl, 2-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)methylthio-2-methylethyl, 2-(1-benzyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)methylthio-2-methylethyl, 2-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methylthio-2-methylethyl, (4-methoxybenzene-sulfonyl)methyl, (4-butoxybenzenesulfonyl) methyl, (4-chlorobenzenesulfonyl)methyl, (4-bromobenzenesulfonyl)methyl, (n-butylsulfonyl)methyl, (n-octylsulfonyl)methyl, 3-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)propyl, (4-methylbenzenesulfonyl) methyl, (benzenesulfonyl)methyl, (4-phenylbenzenesulfonyl)methyl, (4-n-butyl phenylsulfonyl) methyl, benzenecarbonylamino or cyclopentanecarbonylamino.

33. (New) The compound of Claim 4, wherein R_2 is (4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)methyl, (4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl)methyl, (4-phenyl benzenesulfonyl)methyl, (4-n-butylphenylsulfonyl)methyl, benzenecarbonylamino, cyclopentanecarbonylamino, piperazinyl-methyl, 4-(methanesulfonyl)piperazinylmethyl, morpholinomethyl, (1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1,5,5-trimethylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, (1- butylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl, 2-(1-methylhydantoin-3-yl)methyl-2-methylethyl,